

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-11 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-05 INT-05 DHA-02 EB-07

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R 141618Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5955

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL IC

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN ICELAND AT KOPASKER

REF: 75 REYKJAVIK 1497 (DTG 221452Z DEC 75)

1. SUMMARY. SEVERE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK TOWN IN NORTHERN ICELAND JAN 13. NO SERIOUS INJURIES BUT MOST OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE EVACUATED BECAUSE OF DAMAGED HOUSING. LOCAL DISASTER AUTHORITIES ARE REVIEWING SITUATION TODAY TO DETERMINE NEXT MOVE BUT SITUATION SEEMS UNDER CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 13 ABOUT 1:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURING OVER 6 ON THE RICHTER SCALE BADLY DAMAGED THE TOWN OF KOPASKER (16 DEG. 30 MIN. WEST LONG. AND 66 DEG. 15 MIN.

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NORTH LAT.). EARTHQUAKE CENTERED 12 MILES SW OF KOPASKER AND

WAS REGISTERED IN SWEDEN AND COLORADO.

3. KOPASKER HAS ABOUT 130 FAMILIES WHOSE HOMES WERE BADLY DAMAGED AND SOME MADE UNSAFE. DUE TO EARTHQUAKE AND VOLCANIC ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS (REFTEL), THE REGIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY MADE SOME PLANS AS TO WHAT WAS TO BE DONE. MOST OF THE VILLAGE WERE IMMEDIATELY EVACUATED BY ROAD TO THORSHOFN, RAUFARHOFN AND HUSAVIK (20 TO 50 MILES AWAY) DESPITE BAD WEATHER. LOCAL FREEZING PLANT MAY BE ENDANGERED AS WELL AS STOCK OF 230 TONS OF LAMB. DAMAGE TO LOCAL PIER ESTIMATED OVER \$100,000.

4. THE ROAD TO THE VILLAGE IS CRACKED IN 60 OR 70 PLACES ON THE CLOSEST STRETCH OF ABOUT 10 KM. A LAKE JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE 2 METERS DEEP AND LARGER THAN THE SITE OF THE VILLAGE DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT BUT RADIO CONTACT WAS EASILY ESTABLISHED. WATER IS OFF BECAUSE OF BROKEN PIPES AND ELECTRICITY IS OFF IN SOME PARTS OF AREA.

5. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS A NEW EMERGENCY INSURANCE COMPANY SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP COMPENSATE THE TOWNSPEOPLE. GEOLOGISTS CONSIDER ALMOST DAILY EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY OVER PAST MONTH AS POSSIBLE PRELUDE TO MAJOR VOLCANIC ERUPTION.
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